

**Presidents**

**George Washington (1789–1797)**

- Supported economic program of Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton
- Declared American neutrality in European war during the French Revolution (1793)
- Prepared to use federal troops to deal with the Whiskey Rebellion (1794)
- Warned of dangers of “permanent alliances,” political parties, and sectionalism in Farewell Address (1796)

**Presidents**

**John Adams, Federalist (1797–1801)**

- Relations with France deteriorated because of the XYZ Affair (1797)
- United States and France engaged in an undeclared naval war (1798–1800)
- The administration responded to French threat and Democratic-Republican opposition with the Alien and Sedition acts (1798)
- Appointed numerous Federalists to the courts through 1801 Judiciary Act

**Presidents**

**Thomas Jefferson, Democratic-Republican (1801–1809)**

- Elected by House of Representatives when he and Aaron Burr received the same number of electoral votes
- First transition of power from one political party to another
- Doubled size of the U.S. with the Louisiana Purchase (1803)
- Embargo Act (1807) attempted to maintain American neutrality but hurt the economy

**Presidents**

**James Madison, Democratic-Republican (1809–1817)**

- Known as the Father of the Constitution
- Seized West Florida from Spain (1810)
- Impressment of American sailors and violations of American neutrality led to War of 1812 (1812–1814) against Great Britain
- Opponents referred to above conflict as “Mr. Madison’s War”
- Supported Second Bank of the U.S. (1816) and a protective tariff

**Presidents**

**James Monroe, Democratic-Republican (1817–1825)**

- Administration known as the “Era of Good Feelings”
- Boundary between U.S. and Canada to the Rocky Mountains established (1818)
- Florida acquired from Spain and the boundaries of the Louisiana Purchase fixed (1819)
- Monroe Doctrine (1823) defended independence of Western Hemisphere from European colonization

**Presidents**

**John Quincy Adams, Democratic-Republican (1825–1829)**

- Elected by the House of Representatives when none of the 4 candidates received a majority of the electoral votes
- Accused by Andrew Jackson and his supporters of entering into a “corrupt bargain” with Henry Clay to win the presidency
- Supported an extensive program of internal improvements
- Served in the House of Representatives (1830–1848)

**Presidents**

**Andrew Jackson, Democrat (1829–1837)**

- Extended spoils system (patronage) to federal government
- Opposed federally funded internal improvements
- Prepared to use force during the nullification crisis in South Carolina over tariff policy (1833)
- Strongly opposed the Second Bank of the U.S.
- Supported removal of Native Americans west of the Mississippi River

**Presidents**

**Martin Van Buren, Democrat (1837–1841)**

- Failure to deal with economic crisis, Panic of 1837, undermined his popular support; known as “President Van Ruin”
- Independent treasury plan created federal depositories independent of state banks
- Opposed federal interference with slavery in the territories, but feared the annexation of Texas would lead to war with Mexico

**Presidents**

**William Henry Harrison, Whig (1841)**

- Hero of the Battle of Tippecanoe (1811) against Tecumseh and the Battle of the Thames during the War of 1812
- Ran the “log cabin and hard cider campaign” against Martin Van Buren
- Died after a month in office; succeeded by his vice-president, John Tyler

**Presidents**

**John Tyler, Whig (1841–1845)**

- First vice-president to become president upon his predecessor’s death in office
- Cabinet resigned over his veto of a new bank bill
- Dispute over the boundary between Maine and Canada resolved through the Webster-Ashburton Treaty (1842)
- Negotiated treaty resulting in the annexation of Texas (1845)

**Presidents**

**James K. Polk, Democrat (1845–1849)**

- Strong advocate of American expansion
- Dispute with Great Britain over control of the Oregon Territory resolved (1846)
- Disagreement over Texas border led to Mexican War (1846–1848)
- U.S. acquired California and additional territory in the Southwest
- Reestablished the independent treasury system

**Presidents**

**Zachary Taylor, Whig (1849–1850)**

- Hero of the Mexican War
- Interested in a canal in Central America linking the Atlantic and Pacific oceans
- Believed people in the territory acquired through the Mexican War should decide the slavery question for themselves
- Died in office while working on the Compromise of 1850 on the expansion of slavery; Vice President Millard Fillmore became president

**Presidents**

**Millard Fillmore, Whig (1850–1853)**

- Served as Zachary Taylor’s vice-president; became president upon his death
- Signed the Compromise of 1850, and enforced the Fugitive Slave Act that was part of the Compromise
- Supported opening trade with Japan
- Not nominated for a second term by the Whigs in 1852; American (Know-Nothing) Party candidate for president in 1856

**Presidents**

**Franklin Pierce, Democrat (1853–1857)**

- Completed the territorial expansion of the continental U.S. with the Gadsden Purchase (1853)
- Approved of the Ostend Manifesto (1854), which called for the purchase of Cuba from Spain
- Signed the Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854), effectively repealing the Missouri Compromise (1820)
- Appointed proslavery governors in the Kansas Territory

**Presidents**

**James Buchanan, Democrat (1857–1861)**

- Committed to serving only 1 term
- Supported the proslavery constitution for Kansas (1858) and its admission as a slave state
- Supported acquiring Cuba like his predecessor
- Maintained states had no right to secede but did little to prevent secession crisis after the election of 1860

**Presidents**

**Abraham Lincoln, Republican (1861–1865)**

- Opposed the expansion of slavery but accepted it in the states where it existed
- Election led to the secession crisis and the Civil War
- Issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, freeing slaves in areas of the South still “in rebellion”
- Favored a moderate policy toward the South after the Civil War
- Assassinated in 1865 by John Wilkes Booth

**Presidents**

**Andrew Johnson, Democrat (1865–1869)**

- Served as Abraham Lincoln’s vice-president in the second term; became president after Lincoln’s assassination
- His Reconstruction plan only required Confederate states to abolish slavery
- Vetoed extension of Freedmen’s Bureau and Civil Rights Act of 1866
- Impeached, tried, but not convicted for violating the Tenure of Office Act (1868)

**Presidents**

**Ulysses S. Grant, Republican (1869–1877)**

- Administration plagued by scandals involving cabinet members and the vice-president
- Supported Radical Reconstruction and pushed ratification of 15th Amendment
- Proposed the annexation of the island of Santo Domingo in the Caribbean
- Beginnings of civil service reform with creation of Civil Service Commission (1871)

**Presidents**

**Rutherford B. Hayes, Republican (1877–1881)**

- Won in a disputed 1876 election; an electoral commission appointed by Congress gave the contested electoral votes in Florida, Louisiana, and South Carolina to Hayes
- Withdrew last federal troops from South, ending Reconstruction
- Authorized use of federal troops during Railroad Strike of 1877
- Supported return U.S. to the gold standard

**Presidents**

**James A. Garfield, Republican (1881)**

- Aligned himself with the moderate faction of the Republican Party in his appointments to key patronage jobs and the cabinet
- Assassinated by a disgruntled office seeker
- Vice President Chester Arthur became president upon his death

**Presidents**

**Chester A. Arthur, Republican  
(1881–1885)**

- Served as James A. Garfield’s vice-president; became president after Garfield’s assassination
- Wanted to limit wasteful government spending
- Opposed the Chinese Exclusion Act (1882) and forced Congress to modify the legislation
- Supported civil service reform through the Pendleton Act (1883)

**Presidents**

**Grover Cleveland, Democrat (1885–1889)**

- First Democratic president elected since 1856
- Vetoed private pension bills for Civil War veterans
- Signed the Interstate Commerce Act (1887), which created the Interstate Commerce Commission, the first federal regulatory agency
- Supported Dawes Severalty Act (1887), which provided reservation land to individual Native Americans and families

**Presidents**

**Benjamin Harrison, Republican  
(1889–1893)**

- Administration backed key Republican legislation, including the McKinley Tariff (1890), Sherman Silver Purchase Act (1890), and Sherman Antitrust Act (1890)
- U.S., along with Germany and Great Britain, established a protectorate over Samoa (1889)
- Supported the annexation of Hawaiian Islands and submitted an annexation treaty to the Senate

**Presidents**

**Grover Cleveland, Democrat (1893–1897)**

- Congress repealed the Sherman Silver Purchase during the country’s worst depression (Panic of 1893)
- Withdrew Hawaii annexation treaty from the Senate
- Maintained British claims that Venezuela boundary dispute violated the Monroe Doctrine
- Only president who served 2, nonconsecutive terms

**Presidents**

**William McKinley, Republican  
(1897–1901)**

- Tariff rates highest in American history
- Annexation of Hawaiian Islands (1898)
- Spanish-American War (1898) resulted in U.S. acquisition of Guam, Philippines, and Puerto Rico
- Open Door policy toward China
- U.S. put on the gold standard (1900); paper money only redeemable in gold
- Vice President Theodore Roosevelt became president upon his death

**Presidents**

**Theodore Roosevelt, Republican  
(1901–1909)**

- Served as William McKinley's vice-president in his second term; became president when McKinley assassinated
- As a trust buster, broke up the Northern Securities Company
- U.S. acquired right to build the Panama Canal
- Roosevelt Corollary (1904) justified U.S. intervention in Western Hemisphere
- Doubled the number of national parks

**Presidents**

**William Howard Taft, Republican  
(1909–1913)**

- Theodore Roosevelt's handpicked successor
- Vigorous enforcement of antitrust laws
- Expanded authority of Interstate Commerce Commission to include the communications industry, i.e., telephone and telegraph companies
- Broke with Roosevelt on conservation policy
- Dollar diplomacy encouraged U.S. investment in Western Hemisphere and Asia

**Presidents**

**Woodrow Wilson, Democrat (1913–1921)**

- Federal Reserve Act created a new national banking system (1913)
- Labor unions exempted from antitrust action under Clayton Antitrust Act (1914)
- U.S. entered World War I (1917)
- 14 Points stated U.S. war aims (1918)
- Failed to get Treaty of Versailles ratified because of opposition to the League of Nations

**Presidents**

**Warren G. Harding, Republican  
(1921–1923)**

- Administration marred by corruption, e.g., Teapot Dome scandal
- Significant tax cuts for wealthy individuals and businesses
- Federal budget system established
- Supported national quotas to limit immigration
- Washington Armament Conference (1921–1922) led to a reduction in naval forces for major powers
- Vice President Calvin Coolidge became president upon his death

**Presidents**

**Calvin Coolidge, Republican (1923–1929)**

- Served as Warren G. Harding’s vice-president; became president on Harding’s death
- Income and inheritance taxes reduced
- Twice vetoed the McNary-Haugen Bill, which addressed the depression in agriculture
- Kellog-Briand Pact (1928) renounced war as an instrument of foreign policy
- Decided not to run for a second full term

**Presidents**

**Herbert Hoover, Republican (1929–1933)**

- Increased spending on public works during the Depression
- Reconstruction Finance Corporation (1932) created to make loans to banks, businesses, and state and local governments
- U.S. did not recognize Japan’s occupation of Manchuria (1931)
- Rejected demands of Bonus Army for early payment of World War I veterans’ pension

**Presidents**

**Franklin D. Roosevelt, Democrat  
(1933–1945)**

- Only president to serve more than 2 terms; elected in 1932; 1936; 1940; 1944
- New Deal legislation to combat the Depression significantly expanded federal government’s authority
- Social Security is among the enduring New Deal programs
- Led U.S. during WWII; meetings with Allies helped shape postwar world
- Vice President Harry Truman became president upon his death

**Presidents**

**Harry S Truman, Democrat (1945–1953)**

- Served as Franklin D. Roosevelt’s vice-president in his fourth term; became president upon Roosevelt’s death
- Authorized use of atomic bomb against Japan
- Responded to Communist expansion with the containment policy
- Domestic program included national health insurance and civil rights legislation
- U.S. led UN forces during the Korean War

**Presidents**

**Dwight D. Eisenhower, Republican (1953–1961)**

- Strongly backed the creation of the Interstate Highway System
- First Summit Conference held between U.S. and Soviet leaders (1955)
- Used federal troops to ensure the enrollment of African American students at Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas (1957)
- Warned of the danger of the “military-industrial complex” in his Farewell Address

**Presidents**

**John F. Kennedy, Democrat (1961–1963)**

- Had difficulty getting his domestic program through the Congress
- U.S. and Soviet Union came to the brink of war over the Cuban missile crisis (1962)
- Increased U.S. involvement in Vietnam
- U.S., Great Britain, and USSR sign Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (1963)
- Proposed major civil rights legislation before his assassination (1963)
- Succeeded by Lyndon Johnson

**Presidents**

**Lyndon Johnson, Democrat (1963–1969)**

- Became president on Kennedy’s death
- Responsible for passage of Civil Rights Act of 1964
- The Great Society included federal funding for education, Medicare and Medicaid, the War on Poverty, and the Voting Rights Act (1965)
- By 1968 over 500,000 American troops committed to Vietnam War
- Challenged for Democratic nomination; did not run for reelection in 1968

**Presidents**

**Richard M. Nixon, Republican  
(1969–1974)**

- Established the Environmental Protection Agency (1970)
- Normalized relations with China through his 1972 visit
- Vietnamization resulted in dramatic reductions in Americans troops; Paris Peace Accords (1973) end U.S. involvement
- Resigned after the House Judiciary Committee voted articles of impeachment related to the Watergate scandal

**Presidents**

**Gerald Ford, Republican (1974–1977)**

- Appointed vice-president when Spiro Agnew resigned; became president with Nixon's resignation
- Pardoned Nixon for any crimes committed while in office
- 100,000 Vietnamese refugees came to the U.S. following the fall of South Vietnam in 1975
- Enlisted public support for his economic policies with the WIN program—Whip Inflation Now

**Presidents**

**Jimmy Carter, Democrat (1977–1981)**

- National energy policy included alternative energy sources such as solar and deregulation of oil and natural gas prices
- High unemployment and high inflation continued
- Peace between Egypt and Israel achieved as a result of the Camp David Accords (1978)
- Iranian students took over U.S. Embassy in Tehran and held 66 Americans hostage

**Presidents**

**Ronald Reagan, Republican (1981–1989)**

- Tax cuts and increased defense spending led to large budget deficits
- Appointed first woman to the Supreme Court—Sandra Day O'Connor
- Marines sent to Lebanon as peacekeepers (1983), but were withdrawn after 241 were killed in terrorist attack (1984)
- Support for overthrow of left-wing government in Nicaragua led to Iran-Contra scandal (1986)

**Presidents**

**George H. W. Bush, Republican  
(1989–1993)**

- Cold War ended and the Soviet Union collapsed (1991) during the administration
- U.S. invaded Panama to overthrow President Manuel Noreiga (1989)
- U.S. led the coalition against Iraq's invasion of Kuwait (1991)
- Broke campaign pledge not to raise taxes; economy went into recession
- Signed Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)

**Presidents**

**Bill Clinton, Democrat (1993–2001)**

- Strong economy resulted in a federal budget surplus in the 1998 fiscal year
- North American Free Trade Agreement went into effect (1994)
- Dayton Peace Accords ended ethnic conflict in the Balkans (1995); NATO air war against Serbia over Kosovo (1999)
- Impeached, but not convicted, on charges stemming from the Monica Lewinsky scandal (1999)

**Presidents**

**George W. Bush, Republican (2001–2009)**

- Backed the No Child Left Behind Act (2001), which increased the federal role in public education
- Supported Medicare prescription drug benefit
- U.S. attacked by al Qaeda on September 11, 2001
- U.S. overthrew Taliban regime in Afghanistan in response to 9/11 attacks
- War on terrorism expands with invasion of Iraq (2003); fighting against Iraqi insurgency continued